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Dated: April 13, 2005 Signature: 

( Kerry C. Keehan )

JFW

Docket No.: 578492001500  
Client Reference: GDS 1013-1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Niel F. STARKSEN

Application No.: 10/656,797

Confirmation No.: 7101

Filed: September 4, 2003

Art Unit: 3732

For: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR CARDIAC  
ANNULUS STABILIZATION AND  
TREATMENT

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Dear Sir:

Applicant's undersigned attorney has recently assumed responsibility for prosecuting the above-referenced application. Upon review of the file history, Applicants noticed that the Preliminary Amendment, submitted on November 18, 2004, added three new claims (including one new independent claim), and did not indicate that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office should deduct the appropriate fees due in connection with the filing of these additional claims. A copy of this Preliminary Amendment is attached herewith.

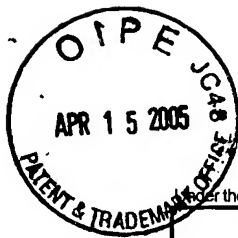
In the event that the Office has not deducted these fees, the Applicant hereby expressly grants the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office permission to charge the cost of amending the application to include these new claims and/or any other fees due in connection with the Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account No. 03-1952, referencing docket no. 578492001500. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: April 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Rick Shoop  
Registration No.: 45,763  
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP  
755 Page Mill Road  
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enclosure (1): Copy of Preliminary Amendment filed November 18, 2004



PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/656,797	
	Filing Date	September 4, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	Niel F. STARKSEN	
	Art Unit	3732	
	Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	13	Attorney Docket Number	578492001500

**ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Communication (2 pages) Copy of Preliminary Amendment filed November 18, 2004 (10 pages) Return Receipt Postcard
<b>Remarks</b>		

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**

Firm Name	MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP (Customer No. 25226)		
Signature			
Printed name	Rick Shoop		
Date	April 13, 2005	Reg. No.	45,763

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